

ENTERING A NEW FIELD.

A Review of the Career of Mr. Arthur U. Craig who has Charge of the Department of Electrical Engineering at the Tuskegee Alabama Normal Institute.

One of the most charming features of Mr. Booker T. Washington's autobiographical papers that have been appearing in *The Outlook*, and which are to be published in book form by Doubleday, Page and Co., of New York, is the praise which he gives those who assist him in carrying on the work in connection with the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute. A recent writer has referred to the fact that Mr. Washington is supported by a great number of men and women who are technical experts in his various industrial departments as well as pedagogical experts in his academic departments. In a short series of articles which I hope to contribute to this paper I shall refer to the work being done at Tuskegee by these important men and women.

The purpose of this article is to refer to Mr. Arthur A. Craig, in charge of the Department of Electrical Engineering. An article in the *Electrical World and Engineer*, October 27th, 1900, gave to the engineering world the first extended account of the teaching of applied electricity at Tuskegee.

Mr. Craig was born at Weston, Mo., December 1st, 1871. He was graduated from the Atchison, Kansas, High School, and was the first Negro boy to graduate from that school. In 1895 he graduated from the school of Electrical Engineering conducted in connection with the Kansas State University. The *Electrical World and Engineer* in its article said of Mr. Craig:

"It was in December 1895, that Arthur A. Craig, a recent graduate of the Kansas State University, Lawrence, Kansas, relinquished his position as assistant to Prof. L. I. Blake, who was in charge of the division of Electrical Engineering at the Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama. Up to that time electrical mechanics, etc., had not been included in the curriculum of the Tuskegee Institute, but President Washington, solicitous that his boys be afforded opportunities for qualifying to enter so promising and remunerative a sphere, determined upon the establishment of a chair of electrical engineering and appointed Mr. Craig as its first occupant.

Prof. Craig, though only 30 years of age, is a most accomplished engineer, enthusiastically devoted to his profession and gratified with the manner in which his students take to their studies and work and the progress they are making. He is the first young Negro who ever graduated from any institution as an electrical engineer; and with his splendid college record in the past, the success of his work in the present and his enthusiastic and sanguine hopes for the future, he is achieving distinguished success for the race of which he is a talented member."

The electrical equipment of the school consists of an electric light plant, telephone exchange and annunciator systems of various kinds. The dynamo which furnished electricity for the



MR. A. A. CRAIG,
In Charge of Division of Electrical Engineering, Tuskegee Institute.

school is a monophase fifty K. W. machine giving 1040 volts at sixty cycles per second. There is a small dynamo which excites this larger dynamo. The switch is of white marble and very handsome, being furnished with the necessary electrical instruments, switches, etc. This machinery was installed in 1897 when the new chapel was built. This chapel will seat two thousand persons and the lighting of this building by electricity required two hundred incandescent lamps which are arranged after Mr. Craig's plans. The electric light plant is soon to be moved to the new Slater-Armstrong Memorial Trades building where is installed a one hundred and fifty horse power Ames automatic high speed engine, and a seventy-five horse power boiler. These were given by the late C. H. P. Huntington, the great railroad magnate before his death. There is soon to be installed an additional dynamo of 75 K. W. which is now required to meet the school's necessities. The wires with a pressure of 1040 volts are carried to different centres where there are large transformers for reducing the voltage. The current enters the buildings on three wires.

The students of Mr. Craig's class installed last year 400 lamps; with those

installed this year make 700. Two buildings have the wires placed in iron armored conduits, with the others wooden moulding which was made at the school is used. How well this work has been done can be judged by the report of an insurance inspector who visited the school and said the work was perfect.

The extent of the grounds and the amount of business carried on between the several departments of the school requires the use of telephones. The students have installed a telephone exchange with a capacity of twenty five telephones. One of the student girls goes on record as being the first Negro "hello" girl in the country. All of this work was designed and installed by Mr. Craig and his students.

The town of Tuskegee, a mile from the school, has a population of 2,000. The city council made application to the school for the furnishing of electric lights from the school's plant. Mr. Craig made a map of the town and worked out a system of lighting with an estimate of the cost of the installation and maintenance. This was submitted to the city council and will be acted upon as soon as the school's

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A LEADER HONORED.

The Colored Republicans of New York State Give a Banquet to Gov. P. B. S. Pinchback—Bruce Grit Describes the Feast of Reason and Flow of Soul—Menu—Notes.

New York, N. Y., Special.—The testimonial banquet tendered the Hon. Pinkney Byashe Stewart Pinchback, citizen of the world, and good fellow generally, by the Citizens League of New York and Brooklyn at the West Side Lyceum February 26, 1901 was the most notable gathering of representative young Negro republicans ever assembled in the greater New York or for that matter in this country, to pay honor to the public and private worth of a MAN. The mantle of the distinguished ex-governor of the Pelican state is his most prominent characteristic. The committee in charge of this splendid testimonial to the Governor laid tribute upon the adjacent states, and their loyal young Negro republicans answered the bugle call with alacrity and joined with the republicans of the Greater New York, in doing honor to one of the "Old Guard" who in sunshine and in shadow has been the unflinching friend and champion of the rights of the Negro race. It was a representative gathering of the best men of the race. The venerable J. W. Mars, one of the wealthiest Negroes in the Empire State and one of the first Negroes in the North to cast his vote for the whig party sat on the extreme right of the guest of honor no doubt revolving in his mind the changes that have taken place since he cast his first vote for a republican president. He was the oldest man around the festive board and to him the sight of younger men rallying around his old friend of twenty-five years standing was most gratifying for he said so. It was a happy augury for the future of the Negro in politics, to see the young men of the race so enthusiastic and loyal in their support of the claims of one who before many of them were born was heroically fighting against great odds the battles of his race. The affair was engineered by Hon. Chas. W. Anderson state committeeman at large and genial Fred R. Moore of the Western National Bank assisted by an able and efficient committee of gentlemen representing all the various elements in the party in New York and Brooklyn. The arrangements were perfect and every plan carried without the slightest hitch. Covers were laid for one hundred guests. Craig's famous orchestra furnished the music, rendering many choice classical selections while the dinner was in progress. Thornley the popular New York florist sent with his compliments to Mr. C. W. Anderson for the guests table, a large basket of American beauty roses, which filled the atmosphere with their delicate fragrance. The tables were arranged in the form of the letter E. and were beautifully decorated. Handsome candelabra were

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